

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL MAIL TO
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 138

United States Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

DALLAS 1, TEXAS

75221

December 10, 1963

*Assassination
of Oswald*

AIRMAIL

Honorable Nicholas deB. Katzenbach
Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Remains of Lee Harvey Oswald

Dear Nick:

Enclosed please find photo copies of two letters which I have received concerning the captioned problem which you and I have had occasion to discuss recently.

With regard to the statement in the second paragraph of the Brownlee letter that I have made a request in behalf of the government that these remains be preserved pending decision by the Warren Commission, I have made no such request of the Fort Worth Police Department nor of any one else. As you know, I did discuss the matter with the Secret Service here on Friday, November 29th, and Saturday, November 30th, and I assume that somehow or other in their conversations with the Fort Worth Police that the latter got the impression that the government was making some sort of official request. In any case, I had occasion on Thursday, December 5th, to deny to the Associated Press that the government had made any request whatsoever concerning the preservation of this body.

I understand that you are working closely with the Warren Commission. Do you think it would be appropriate for you to mention this matter to the Commission so that we might ascertain once and for all that the Commission has no interest in having these remains preserved? If it does not, then I will so advise Mr. Lubar, author of the enclosed letters, and will also see what I can do, as indirectly as possible, to have the Fort Worth Police encourage Widow Oswald and Brother Oswald to have these remains cremated.

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Hon. Nicholas deB. Katzenbach

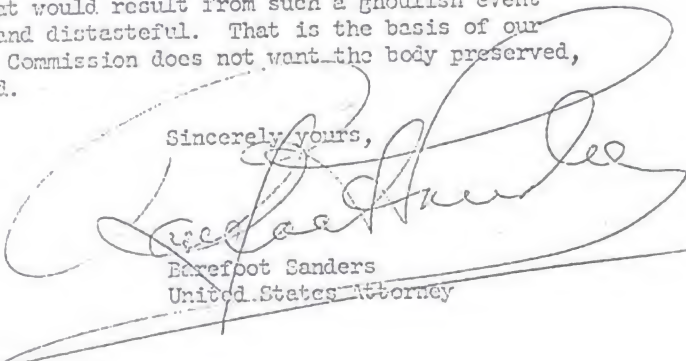
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December 10, 1963

After our conversation last Tuesday, December 3rd, there was some publicity to the effect that Oswald's body might be cremated but this publicity was pretty well overshadowed by some statements which Mother Oswald was making at that time on other subjects. Since then I believe that Mother Oswald has publicly announced that the remains are not going to be cremated, but in the final analysis it will be the widow and brother, and not the mother, who will make this decision - at least, so far as the cemetery and funeral home authorities are concerned.

Although this is essentially a local police problem and not ours, still, desecration of the grave is a real possibility and the publicity that would result from such a ghoulisn event would be widespread and distasteful. That is the basis of our concern that, if the Commission does not want the body preserved, that cremation be had.

Sincerely yours,


Barefoot Sanders
United States Attorney

Enclosures

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